

Journal of the American Society of Professional Graphologists

Welcome to the Journal: A Letter from the President

Thea Stein Lewinson

The Status and Future of Scientific Graphology

Joanna Fancy

Printscript Analysis

Daniel S. Anthony

Evaluation of the Left-handed Writer

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Alcoholism and Handwriting

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The Preconscious in Handwriting

Marc J. Seifer

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PURPOSE OF THE JOURNAL

1. To present theoretical and research papers in scientific graphology according to traditional academic standards.
2. To create a forum for helping graphology gain a wider academic and professional audience in America.
3. To interface with the international professional graphological community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Manuscript inquiries should be addressed to Marc Seifer, Editor, Box 32, Kingston, RI 02881. Inquiries concerning subscriptions and memberships should be addressed to Thea Stein Lewinson, 9109 North Branch Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

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American Society For Professional Graphologists

GRAPHOLOGICAL REFERENCES CONTAINING VALIDATION STUDIES: A CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Most of the handwriting studies below were controlled scientific observations conducted in academic or medical settings by trained graphologists. Some were performed on a blind basis and/or contained independent judges, some were longitudinal or in-depth case studies, others were descriptive analyses by non-graphologists of objective graphic patterns. Certain titles were adapted from the information available in the appropriate chapter of the text by the same author. For research purposes, refer instead to book title. For instance, Mendel's 1947 text *Personality in Handwriting* devotes a section of his chapter on slant to a study he did on the left slanted writer.

The list is by no means exhaustive, but merely representative of the range of graphology studies performed during the last century. Refer to James H. Miller's (1982) *Bibliography of Handwriting Analysis*, which contains over 2300 references or to the Handwriting Analysis Research Library (HARL), located in Greenfield, Massachusetts, which has over 86,000 entries. A * next to a reference indicates that it is a major textbook in the field.

(1867) Ogle, W. Aphasia and agraphia. St. George's Hospital Reports, vol. ii. "Ogle created the word agraphia to specifically denote the loss of power of expression by means of writing" [Crepieux-Jamin, 1892, p. 204].

(1892) Crepieux-Jamin, J. Hysteria and handwriting. *Handwriting and Expression*, London: Kegan, Trench and Trubner. "The examination of forty-five handwritings of hysterical persons revealed... in twenty-four instances... marked agitation and the abnormally large movements of the pen" (p. 211). *

(1895) Preyer, W. *On the Physiology of Handwriting*. Hamburg. Preyer established that similar styles can be achieved when the pen was held by either right or left hand, foot or mouth, thereby establishing that handwriting was centrally organized by the brain and not by the appendage. *

(1895) Freeman, F. Preliminary experiments in writing reactions. *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, xxix. Motion picture equipment was utilized to record the act of writing, and components for changes of speed were noted.

(1900) McAllister, C.N. Researches on movements used in writing studies. *Yale Psychological Lab*, vol. viii.

(1901) Meyer, G. *Die Wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der Graphologie*, Berlin. A systematic study of factors in handwriting correlating with specific characterological features of identity was conducted, e.g., artificiality, spontaneity, slant, size, simplification, elaboration, propensity towards roundedness, angularity, etc.

(1907) Binet, A. Crucial experiments in graphology. *Philosophical Review*, 64, 22-40.

(1919) Downey, J. *Graphology and the Psychology of Handwriting*. Baltimore: Warwick and York, Inc. Bipolar expressive characteristics such as fluent or jerky, impulsive or deliberate were examined in twelve individuals in their handwriting, carriage, and expressive gestures, using eleven judges. Above chance correlations were achieved.

(1919) Hull, C., & Montgomery, R. Experimental investigation of alleged relations between character and handwriting. *American Psychology Review*, (26), 63-74. A study of 17 fraternity brothers' inability to match graphological profiles with their own personality assessments.

(1926) Saudek, R. *Experiments with Handwriting*. London: George Allen & Unwin. This 395 page text is devoted to the ascertaining of objective criteria in handwriting, e.g., determining the relative speed of handwriting, developmental changes in execution of the writing trail from childhood to adulthood, the role of the central nervous system, etc. Footnotes and detailed bibliography included. *

(1933) Allport, G., & Vernon, P. *Studies in Expressive Movement*. New York, NY: Macmillan. This treatise contains numerous controlled experiments which discovered "a congruence between expressive movements [e.g., handwriting, gestures, gait]... and attitudes, traits and values" (pp. 247-248). *

(1933) Seeman, E., & Saudek, R. The handwriting of identical twins. *Character and Personality*, 1, 22-40, 268-285.

(1934) Harvey, O. Measurement of handwriting considered as a form of expressive movement. *Character and Personality*, 2, 310-321. The author obtained significant correlations on 26 variables in handwriting analysis with the Thurstone Personality Schedule of 50 college females.

(1936) Roman, K. Studies on the variability of handwriting: The development of writing speed and point pressure in school children. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, xlv, 139-160.

(1937) Reinhardt, J. Heredity and environment: A reexamination of some evidence from studies of twins with emphasis upon the graphological method. *Character & Personality*, (5), 305-320.

(1939) Jacoby, H. Uniqueness and handwriting. *Analysis of Handwriting*. London: George Allen & Unwin. Two hundred samples were studied for only the letter i. After careful analysis, no two strokes were found to be identical. The full 200 samples are provided. *

(1939, July) Alten, E. The psychology of handwriting and its importance to the physician. *Medical Record*, (150), 71-74.

- (1940, July) Lewinson, T.S. Dynamic disturbances in the handwriting of psychotics. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, xcvi, 102-135.
- (1944) Lewinson, T.S., & Zubin, J. Handwriting analysis: A series of scales for evaluating the dynamic aspects of handwriting. New York. Using objective criteria, the authors were successfully able to differentiate between the handwriting of delinquents and non-delinquents.
- (1945) Eysenck, H. Graphological analysis and psychiatry: An experimental study. *British Journal of Psychology*, (35), 70-81. Author found positive correlations between handwriting analysis and personality variables such as intelligence and emotional stability.
- (1947) Mendel, A. The left slant in the handwriting of right handed individuals. *Personality in Handwriting*. London: Peter Owen, Ltd. Seven righted handed, left slanted writers "were asked to give a short history of their childhood" particularly with reference to their relationship to their parents. These accounts were compared to the childhoods of six famous left slanted writers (e.g., Longfellow, Thackery, Ibsen). In most cases, estrangement with the father was evident, (pp. 85-96). *
- (1948) Castelnovo-Tedesco, P. A study of the relationship between handwriting variables and personality variables. *General Psychology Monograph*, (37), 167-220.
- (1948) Hackbush, F. Drawings by children before and after epileptic seizures. In Wolff, pp. 84-88. Increases in the sizes after the seizures were generally 1.5 or 2 times the size of the drawings before seizures.
- (1948) Wolff, W. *Diagrams of the Unconscious*. This masterwork explores a full range of experimental studies. "The expressive movement in writing [especially, the signature], is made chiefly in a state of unawareness, automatically and impulsively.... These unconscious movements represent a reign of order, proportion, and configuration, appearing in the same exact way as if they had been consciously calculated, measured, and constructed... (p. 151). [They] originate neither in chance nor in conscious intention, but [rather]... they reflect unconscious principles of organization" (p. 177). Included is a bibliography of 474 graphological studies published in such outlets as *American Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, *Archives of Neurology & Psychology*, *British Journal of Psychology*, *Character and Personality*, *Experimental Psychology*, *Journal of Abnormal & Social Psychology*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Clinical Psychopathology & Psychotherapy*, *Journal of Educational Research*, *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, *Journal of Psychiatric Neurology*, *Journal of Psychology*, *Journal of Social Psychology*. *
- (1950) Sonnemann, U. A longitudinal study of the handwriting of a patient with a brain tumor. *Handwriting Analysis*, New York, NY: Grune & Stratton. "Shivering of the ductus... [and] blotting [occurs, and as the disease] progresses, difficulties in size control tend to become prominent," (p. 231). *

(1950, February). Muhl, A. Unreliability of behavior as evidenced in handwriting. *Medical Woman's Journal*. In a series of studies containing the handwritings of 100 male truants, the author found a number of atypical correlations, e.g., left tending half ovals, small tight loops, covering strokes, abrupt stops above the lines, smeariness, breaks and mends, slowness and looped arcades. In a second study of 500 delinquent girls, the author found 75% had high suggestibility, impulsiveness and poor discrimination.

(1951) Wolfson, R. Graphology. *Projective Techniques*, Anderson, & Anderson (Ed's.), Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 417-456. The problems of validity and measurement of psychological evaluations and interpretations in handwriting analysis is discussed.

(1953) Eliasberg, W., & Teltscher, H.O. How long was Roosevelt ill before his death? *Diseases of the Nervous System*, (14), 322-328. Longitudinal study by a graphologist and a medical doctor of the handwriting of FDR in comparison with the onset of disease.

(1958) Kanfer, A., & Casten, D. Observations on disturbances in neuromuscular coordination in patients with malignant disease. *New York Hospital for Joint Diseases*, 1-19. With the cooperation of fourteen doctors including Casten, approximately 10,000 handwritings of cancer patients were studied for "neuromuscular incoordination" over a period of 12 years. Examinations with a microscope revealed irregular pressure patterns and ink distributions in the handwriting of the afflicted. Corroboration was achieved by "three independent statisticians working at two of the major insurance companies in the New York area."

(1959, September) Tripp, C., Fluckiger, F., & Weinberg, G. Effects of alcohol on the graphomotor performances of normals and chronic alcoholics. *Perceptual & Motor Skills*. Sixty-eight alcoholics and 18 normals were tested in various states of inebriation with a graphodyne which measured writing speed and pressure. Distinct differences between the two groups were noted.

(1962) Roman, K. Graphodyne recordings of muscle tension during the process of handwriting. *Handwriting: A Key to Personality*. New York: Noonday Press. The author invented a pen-like machine to record the amount of muscle tension expressed during the act of writing. "Adequate muscle tone and a well balanced interplay of tension and release are usually associated with general well being and emotional stability... whereas disturbed tension-release patterns [objectively measured by the graphodyne] accompany emotional instability, neurotic conflict and poor adaptive capacity" (p. 283). *

(1965) Naftali, A. Behavior factors in handwriting identification. *Journal of Criminal Law*, (56), 528-538. Handwriting is influenced by inborn movement tendencies, acquired patterns, neuromuscular tension, conscious decisions on style, situation and mood at the time of writing.

(1969) Anthony, D. *The Graphological Psychogram*, Newark, NJ. Improving on the psychogram developed by Klara Roman, the author has created perhaps the best objective measuring tool for scientifically validating graphology. Forty variables such as speed, slant, upper zone elaboration, simplification, angularity, lower zone length, rhythm and regularity are measured on a 1-10 scale, and grouped according to eight sectors which make up an integrated Gestalt personality profile. With this tool, handwritings can be converted to numerical measures for statistical analysis and the scores of different graphologists can be quantitatively compared.*

(1969) Dhawan, B., Bapat, S., & Saxena, V. The effect of four centrally acting drugs on handwriting. *Japanese Journal of Pharmacology*, (19), 63-67.

(1969) Marcuse, I. The handwriting of suicides. *Guide to the Disturbed Personality*. New York: Arco Publishers. Individual case studies are described. Graphics uncovered included downhill sloping and drooping of letters or letter connections below the baseline.

(1969) Bogen, J. Dysgraphia and dyscopia. *Bulletin of the Los Angeles Neurological Society*, (34), 2, 73-105. Severe disturbances were noted in the handwriting of epileptic patients who have had the two hemispheres of their brains surgically disconnected. For instance, in one case, "the patient could write to dictation [numerals] with both hands but an entire sentence was impossible for the left hand" (p. 77).

(1969, January) Hearn, R. Dyslexia and handwriting. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. (2), 1, 39-44.

(1970, March) Kopp, W., Paulson, G., Allen, J., Smeltzer, D., Brown, F. & Kose, W. Parkinson's disease: L-dopa treatment and handwriting area. *Current Therapeutic Research*. (12), 3, 115-124. Medical doctors explore the relationship between Parkinson's disease and neurophysiological correlates in handwriting.

(1971, February 5) Broern, W. Graphology and its importance in current medical psychology, *Medizinische Klinik, Hamburg*, (66), 6.

(1971, September) Beumont, P. Small handwriting in some patients with anorexia nervosa. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, (119), 349-350.

(1972) Hearn, R. The use of graphology in criminology. *Criminal Psychopathology*, (3), 461-464.

(1972) Mullins, J. A handwriting model of children with learning disabilities. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, (5), 306-311.

(1972) Swanson, B., & Price, R. Signature size and status. *Journal of Social Psychology*, (19), 63-67.

(1974, January-February) Pearl, R. The value of handwriting in neurologic examination. *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, (41), 1, 200-204.

(1974, December) Seifer, M., & Goode, D. Handwriting: A measure of muscle tension in schizophrenics and normals. *National Society for Graphology Newsletter*, 1-4. The primary author, a graphologist, under the direction of two medical doctors including D. Goode, isolated ten variables from the Roman-Anthony psychogram for measuring signs of muscle tension (e.g., rhythm, pressure, speed, slant consistency) in a blind study of 7 schizophrenic and 12 normals writers. The schizophrenic writers were found to be more tense, and significant differences between the two groups was achieved.

(1980) Luria, A. Analysis of the drawings of patients with severe brain damage. *Higher Cortical Functions in Man*, New York: Basic Books. A renown Soviet neurologist analyzed the writings and drawings of individuals with tumors on various lobes of the cerebral cortex. Luria found differences in the ability to write and copy pictures when the patients saw the drawings as compared to when they were described verbally, when they were allowed or not allowed to lip read, and when lines were superimposed over the target.

(1982) Miller, J. *Bibliography of Handwriting Analysis*. Troy, NY: The Whitson Publishing Co. This 420 page text contains 2321 references. It is an essential sourcebook for any serious researcher in the field.

(1982) Levy, J. Handwriting posture and cerebral organization: How are they related? *Psychological Bulletin*, (91), 3, 589-608. Levy found that 60% of lefties writing in a culture whose handwriting goes from left to right, inverted their hand position. This is compared to only 1% of righties.

(1987) Lokowandt, O. The problem of the validation of graphological judgements. In N. Bradly (Ed.), Oxford: 1987: *The First British Symposium on Graphological Research*, Great Britain, 146-167. The author discusses the problem of validity in graphology and argues that, to date, "no irrefutable proof... against the claims of handwriting analysis" has been achieved. Graphology is a worthy diagnostic tool whether or not it has yet been validated.

(1987, March) Vellutino, F. Dyslexia. *Scientific American*, 34-41. "Mirror writing and similar problems are usually blamed on defects in visual perception, but in truth, dyslexia seems to be a complex linguistic deficiency" (p. 34). Dyslexics appear to have difficulty "relat[ing] stimuli perceived through one sensory system (e.g., seeing) to stimuli perceived through another system (e.g., hearing)" (p. 38).

(1988) Sarah, C. Handwriting as a tool in the diagnosis of the hyperactive child. In A. Carmi & S. Schneider (Ed's.), *Experiencing Graphology*, London: Freund Publishing House. A blind study of the handwritings of 24 children, all aged twelve, comprising one hyperactive group of 8 and two control groups of 8, one group normal, and the other slightly retarded, were analyzed for 17 personality characteristics measured for four degrees of intensity. "Professional graphologists were able to differentiate clearly between normal and abnormal children, and to describe

specifically the syndromes of both hyperactivity and retardation. The profiles obtained by graphological analysis match the appropriate clinical profiles" (p. 229).

(1988, September) TenHouten, W., Seifer, M., & Siegel, P. Alexithymia and the split brain: Evidence from graphological signs. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 331-338. Two graphologists, Seifer and Siegel, independently scored psychograms for the handwritings of 8 epileptic split brain writers and 8 normal matched pairs. Both analysts achieved results that were significantly different between the two groups. Also, they achieved intercoded reliability on form level scores and four specific variables under the "emotional release" sector of the psychogram. In general, the split brain writers were found to have arrhythmic, fragmented and disconnected writings with perseverations, patching and missed or misplaced letters or words.

Bibliography compiled by M. Seifer.